

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing ~~recorded~~ announcements on a communications network comprising:

at least one central terminal for routine communications on the communication network and in communication with the network, the at least one central terminal further comprising an announcement digital signal processor, wherein the announcement digital signal processor converts one or more digital packet files to voice signals;

an announcement service node coupled to the at least one central terminal further comprising a data schema and an application server for accessing the data schema; ~~wherein the announcement service node provides access via subscription to an inventory of recorded announcement digital packet files on a per-use basis;~~

wherein the announcement service node application server is accessible by more than one central terminal coupled to the communications network;

wherein said data schema comprises a storage mass for storing ~~the~~ a plurality of recorded announcement digital packet files, the plurality of recorded announcement digital packet files including ~~information~~ digitized announcement phrases for callers on the communications network; and

wherein a call from an individual is connected to the announcement digital signal processor at the at least one central terminal, with the at least one central terminal determining a list of announcement phrases required for at least one announcement, the central terminal sending a request to the announcement service node that includes the list of announcement phrases required for the at least one announcement, the announcement service node receiving the list of announcement phrases required and assembling the digitized announcement phrases into the at least one announcement, digital packet file the announcement digital signal processor receiving the at least one announcement ~~digital packet file~~ from the announcement service node while the call from the individual is connected to the at least one central terminal and converting the at least one announcement ~~digital packet file~~ to a voice file so as to audibly convey information to the calling individual as the ~~recorded~~ at least one announcement is played from the at least one central terminal during the call; and

~~an SS7 network, wherein the at least one central terminal initiates queries communicates to the announcement service node via the SS7 network.~~

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said storage mass comprises a relational database.

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said ~~stored recording are in the form of~~ recorded announcement digital packet files are managed by a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said central terminal comprises a central office of a telephone service network.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 5, wherein said central office initiates queries to said announcement service node in X.25 protocol.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of central offices of a telephone service provider coupled to the service node of the telephone service provider.

8-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~recorded~~ announcements to devices on a network for a telephone service provider comprising:

coupling a request for ~~[[a]]~~ at least one recorded announcement from at least one central terminal on the network of the telephone service provider to a centralized announcement service node, the centralized announcement service node coupled to the at least one central terminal, the at least one central terminal comprising an announcement digital signal processor, the at least one recorded announcement including

information for a user who places calls on the service provider's network, wherein the at least one central terminal determines a list of announcement phrases required for the at least one announcement, then sends a request-initiates queries to the centralized announcement service node that includes the list of announcement phrases required for the at least one announcement ~~via an SS7 network;~~  
assembling by the centralized announcement service node ~~retrieving,~~ in response to ~~the request~~ receiving the list of announcement phrases required for [[a]] the at least one ~~recorded~~ announcement, at least one ~~recorded~~ announcement file from a centralized storage mass that includes a plurality of recorded digitized announcement phrases corresponding to those of the list and is coupled to the centralized announcement service node and the service provider's network while a call from the user is connected to the announcement digital signal processor at the least one central terminal, wherein the centralized announcement service node and its coupled centralized storage mass are separated from the at least one central terminal, and wherein the centralized announcement service node provides access via subscription to ~~an inventory of recorded announcement files~~ the plurality of recorded digitized announcement phrases on a per-use basis;

digitally compressing the at least one ~~recorded~~ announcement file in response to the coupled request;

providing at least one digitally compressed ~~recorded~~ announcement file to the at least one central terminal in response to the coupled request while the at least one central terminal is connected to the user;

converting the at least one digitally compressed ~~recorded~~ announcement file to at least one voice file via the announcement digital signal processor, ~~the digitally compressed recorded announcement comprising one or more digital packet files;~~

identifying the user based on a communication from the at least one central terminal; and

~~retrieving at least one recorded announcement for the user based in part on the identification of the user; and~~

playing at least one voice file from the announcement digital signal processor to the user, the user having placed the call to the service provider's network, to

thereby audibly convey the information to the user during the call.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~recorded~~ announcements to devices on a network according to claim 25, comprising:

identifying the user based on Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS).

28. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~recorded~~ announcements to devices on a network according to claim 25, comprising:

identifying the user based on a code dialed by said user.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~recorded~~ announcements to devices on a network according to claim 25, comprising:

identifying the user based on Automatic Number Identification (ANI).

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~recorded~~ announcements to devices on a network according to claim 25, comprising:

adding ~~a recorded announcement~~ at least one digitized announcement phrase to said centralized storage mass; and

providing a translation to a switch on the network correlating to the added at least one digitized announcement phrase.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~recorded~~ announcements to devices on a network according to claim 25, comprising:

prioritizing a plurality of ~~queries for recorded~~ requests for announcements from one or more central offices on the network; and

providing a plurality of ~~recorded~~ announcements to said one or more central offices on the network.

33. (Canceled)